



**Gallatin County Weed Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 04, 2010**

Board members present were Keith Mainwaring (Chair), Jeff Littlefield, Craig Morgan, Fred Bell and Commissioner Joe Skinner. Also present were Rachele Rhoades (MSU Student), John Ansley (Coordinator) and Rosemary Perry (Secretary). Bob Hofman was excused.

Minutes. The Minutes of the January meeting had been submitted to the Board and were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Review of Utility Agreement.** The Board had taken the draft of the proposed utility agreement for review after the January meeting. Fred Bell suggested some minor changes and he will discuss this with Ansley after the meeting. Commissioner Skinner asked if the document had been sent to the County Attorney for review. Ansley will do this as soon as he has reviewed the document with Bell.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Comment/Other.** None.
2. **Monthly Report Q&A.**

Keith Mainwaring asked about the call from DEQ regarding the disturbance behind the Bozeman Library. Ansley stated that he had contacted City Officials and been informed that the area had been reseeded twice. The first time the seeding did not work, the second time was in the fall of 2009 so we will not know how successful that was until spring/summer 2010. Ansley called the DEQ representative and informed her that we will monitor the area and if necessary assist the City with some weed control. The site has mainly nuisance weeds, not noxious weeds. There was a question about the Educational Display. Ansley informed the Board that the backing had started to buckle on the center panel; however Color World repaired it at no cost.

3. **Chair Report.**

Mainwaring congratulated Ansley on being appointed to the Coordinator position. Mainwaring received a letter from HR regarding Ansley's vacation time. He will take time off in March.

Assistant Coordinator Position. Mainwaring stated that there has been discussion regarding not hiring this position. Mainwaring and Ansley have discussed the problem of not hiring the assistant position. Dan Durham is leaving the Conservation District and unless the CD replaces Durham there will no longer be help for small acreage landowners and all the other events that Durham was involved in. This will have a negative impact the Weed District. The Board members felt that they had worked hard to get the Assistant position and if they don't rehire the position may be lost. Commissioner Skinner asked if the position was really necessary as the subdivision inspections have fallen off. Ansley informed the Board that the lack of development will actually increase the work load as there are a lot of partially developed subdivisions in the County that will require monitoring. Ansley listed some of the work load for the upcoming 2010 field season and this prompted the Board to set up a Strategic Planning Session for the March

meeting. After much discussion it was decided that Ansley would review the Enforcement/Education Coordinator job description and contact Blackman (County Finance Office) and Hertzog (HR Director) regarding options for hiring an assistant coordinator or combining the crew foreman position with the assistant coordinator and make that a year round full time position. The Board will look at options and will decide which way to go at the strategic planning meeting.

4. Commissioner Report. Commissioner Skinner complimented Ansley on the job he is doing with regard to the stimulus funding. He reminded Ansley about before and after pictures.

5. Coordinator Report.

- Ansley reported that the Invoice for the enforcement action on the Blue Sky Development project had been returned and was forwarded to the Clerk and Recorder to start the process for attachment to the property taxes.
- The MWCA Annual Conference was a good conference with a lot of educational material presented. Ansley is now the SW Area Chair.
- The Hyalite Meadows HOA meeting was well attended and Ansley's presentation was well received.
- Ansley gave an update on the energy stimulus projects. The doors are in and the furnace has been replaced. Before and after pictures were shown to the Board. Commissioner Skinner asked about the status of the insulation. This has not been started yet as the company needs a few days above forty degrees to get the job done. Commissioner Skinner asked if the projects were within budget and Ansley informed him that they were. Ansley has talked to the Grants Department regarding the fact that we had to hire an electrician to hard wire the doors and we are not sure if that is covered or not as it wasn't part of the original estimate. Ansley presented a request to see if we could get the old hot water heaters at the shop replaced with energy stimulus funds, however that project does not qualify.
- One of the trucks that will be disposed of has new tires on it and the Fairgrounds mechanic will salvage them for us. Once that is done the old trucks will be removed. With the clean up of the shop and some assistance from the Fairgrounds we are now able to have all the equipment under cover for the winter.
- The Conservation District Small Acreage Specialist is leaving for a position with NRCS. The Coordinator for the Big Sky Weed Committee is leaving to take a position in California. The Weed District will be impacted by the loss of these two people.
- Ansley has sent out letters to all people that have previously registered for the Landowner Maintenance program. So far we have heard back from 2 landowners. Ansley explained the program to the Board and outlined the procedure for getting all properties with uniform signs supplied by the Weed District so that the crews will recognize the "no spray" zones.
- A list of all the Weed District vehicles and spray equipment was passed out for the Board.
- The Agenda for the Weed Summit was passed out.
- Ansley asked if any Board members would like to sign up for the Wild West WinterFest Booth. He gave the hours. Bell will work Saturday from 11am to 3pm. Mainwaring will let Ansley know what he can do.
- Ansley will be at the Noxious Weed Trust Fund hearings in Helena on March 4th to present two grants. The Frog Rock WMA renamed Rocky Creek WMA has been expanded to cover twice the acreage, and the Upper Madison renamed the Hebgen Basin WMA. He is currently working on power point presentations for both grants. The date for the March Board meeting will need to be changed. March 11th was suggested and agreed to by those present.
- The MWCA has forwarded a letter from the Liberty County Weed Coordinator regarding the official designation for Russian Olive. The letter will be sent to County Commissioners

across the state. There are two options; one to make it a regulated plant and the other to list it as a noxious weed. After much discussion the Board recommended to Commissioner Skinner that the plant be listed as a Regulated plant. This designation would mean that it cannot be brought into or sold in the State.

- Ansley has put together a draft of an agreement with the Fairgrounds to share the cost of the security fence for the Weed Shop by using mechanic labor. The Fairgrounds manager has the agreement and after the Wild West WinterFest will have time to review it and then present it to the County Attorney for approval.

6. Round Table.

Mainwaring asked if the funds received by selling the old trucks could be used towards the fence costs. The money from the trucks would go into the Capital Outlay – Machinery & Equipment line item. At this time it is unknown as we are not sure if the trucks will be sold or go to the junk vehicle program.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.10PM. The next meeting will be March 11th and will be the Strategic Planning meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Perry, Secretary